

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



A PROSPERUS COMMUNITY SOLUTION

IGNITE ACADEMY

This past year at Ignite Academy was a strong and successful one—and it would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors, volunteers along with our workplace and community partners. Their commitment to students and belief in the power of education made a real difference to Ignite Academy participants in Downtown Windsor, West Windsor, and Leamington. Our donors and workplace partners provided critical funding and resources that allowed Ignite Academy to grow and respond to student needs. Their generosity ensured more students could access reading, writing, and math support when they needed it most.

The generosity did not stop there. Our partnership with Stellantis Philanthropy allowed us to increase the number of literacy and math interventions we could offer each week. With this support, Ignite Academy provided 65% more academic interventions this year, reaching even more students and supporting their learning in meaningful ways. This included 1,093 literacy interventions, with 70% of the students who needed the most support improving their reading skills. We also delivered 355 more math interventions than last year, giving students opportunities to build confidence and strengthen their numeracy skills.

We also know that learning cannot happen on an empty stomach. This year, thanks to the generosity of the Farrow Family, we were able to pilot a hot meal program across all six Ignite Academy schools. From December through April, every child in the program received a nutritious hot meal once a week. The response from families and students was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting how vital nourishment is in helping children feel supported and ready to learn.

This year's achievements reflect what is possible when schools, families, and community partners unite. Together, we are not only supporting academic growth with Ignite Academy but also creating an environment where every child can thrive.

WWW.WEAREUNITED.COM/IGNITEACADEMY



IGNITE ACADEMY provides academic, social, mental health, financial, and other family supports to students between Grades 2 and 7. The program focuses on math and literacy skills, improving school attendance and growing self-confidence to help students in West Windsor, Downtown Windsor and Leamington reach their full potential and succeed throughout their schooling.

87% of kids feel proud of themselves for learning from Ignite Academy



100% of caregivers reported their child benefits from Ignite Academy



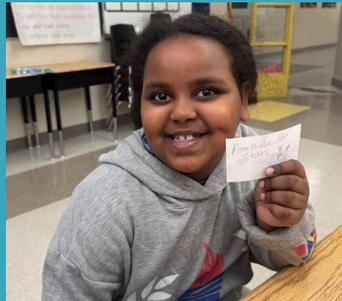
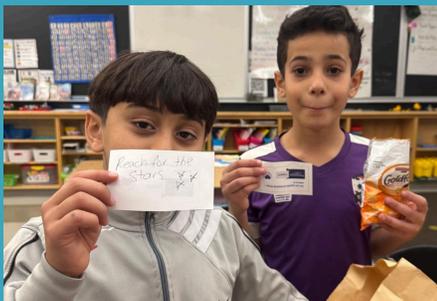
93% of kids showed improvement in math by the end of the year



“It’s an amazing program and we are so lucky to have it. The staff is absolutely phenomenal.”
– Caregiver of Ignite Academy Participant

“I appreciate the improvement on academics”
– Caregiver of Ignite Academy Participant

Learn more at weareunited.com/igniteacademy



Igniting Confidence: Munir’s Story

For Munir, adjusting to life in Canada wasn’t easy. After arriving in Windsor with his family, he faced language barriers, financial struggles, and the uncertainty of starting fresh. But through Ignite Academy, Munir found encouragement, friendship, and the support he needed to succeed. With tutoring, mentorship, and caring guidance, he gained confidence and began to dream about his future. Munir’s story is a reminder that when kids have the right support, anything is possible.



Research tells us that children who are skilled in reading in Grade 3 are more likely to graduate from high school, and children who are skilled in math in Grade 6 are more likely to complete a post-secondary program.



A challenge the United Way Team has overcome is changing the kid's perception of academics. They focus on making math, reading and writing fun and exciting to learn. Lessons are covered in engaging, individualized activities in small groups or one-on-one.

On average across Grades 3 and 6, Ignite Academy schools are moving in the right direction on scores from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). From 2023–24 to 2024–25, more students met or exceeded the provincial standard in every subject, with gains in reading (69% to 71%), writing (64% to 68%), and mathematics (41% to 49.5%). There is still work to do, especially in math, but these results show steady progress and a team that is focused every day on helping kids catch up, build confidence, and succeed in school.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Multicultural Council (MCC) of Windsor and Essex County and the South Essex Community Council (SECC) for their important role in delivering Ignite Academy. Their deep community connections, cultural expertise, and on-the-ground support were essential to reaching students and families who needed it most. Because of their partnership, Ignite Academy was able to deliver meaningful, targeted academic interventions that helped students build skills, confidence, and momentum for future success.



“

I saw so much confidence in my kids. They learned a lot and always received the help they needed, especially with homework. As a single mom, the program made things much easier for me.

– Mulky, Caregiver of Ignite Academy Participant

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Ignite Academy would not be possible without the generosity of our donors.

We are grateful to all those who are creating opportunities for local youth and supporting children from Cradle to Career.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Windsor Volunteers for Literacy Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

- Tom Weber
- Windsor Salt Ltd
- Caesars Windsor Cares

\$25,000 - \$49,999

- Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan
- The CIBC Seabrook Financial Group

\$50,000 - \$99,999

- Rick Farrow Holdings Ltd & Farrow Foundation
- BMO Financial Group
- GreenShield Cares
- Joan and John Vollmer Foundation Fund held at the WindsorEssex Community Foundation
- Libro Credit Union
- RBC
- ScotiaRISE
- TD Bank Group
- Windsor and District Labour Council

\$100,000 +

- The Bill & Rochelle Tepperman Foundation
- O'Neil Family Foundation

*The donors on this list supported Ignite Academy from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

